

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/726,401

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 07-February-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 13-15 and 17-26, re-numbered as claimes 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☒ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*C. Rones*  
**CHARLES RONES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Remarks***

1. In response to the Amendment filed on 07-February-2005, claims 11-12 and 16 have been canceled per applicant's request. No claims have been amended and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-10, 13-15 and 17-26 are presently pending in the application, of which, claims 1, 2, 10 and 13 are in independent form.

### ***Allowance***

2. Claims 1-10, 13-15 and 17-26 are allowed over the prior art made of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's amendment After Final, filed on 07-February-2005, canceled claims 11-12 and 16, which were the only rejected and objected-to claims pending in the previous Office Action. The remaining claims were previously allowed for the reasons below:

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-10, 13-15 and 17-26 are allowed over the prior art made of record.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, Wactlar et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,667), Vaithilingam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,724), and Aggarwal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,293), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a method for updating multimedia feature information in a multimedia retrieval system using weight of multimedia features and reliability of the weight, comprising:

(c) updating the reliability of the weight by reflecting the retrieval performance evaluation and the retrieval environment change, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Claims 3-9 and 17-22 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 1.

The prior art of record, Wactlar et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,667), Vaithilingam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,724), and Aggarwal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,293), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a method for updating multimedia feature information in a multimedia retrieval system using weight of multimedia features and reliability of the weight, comprising:

updating the reliability of the present weight by reflecting the calculated retrieval performance; and

updating the present weight using the updated reliability, as claimed in claim 2.

Claims 23-25 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 2.

The prior art of record, Wactlar et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,667), Vaithilingam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,724), and Aggarwal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,293), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

updating a reliability of present weight by reflecting retrieval performance calculated using one or more user's feedbacks with respect to a multimedia retrieval result obtained using previous weight; and

updating a present weight using the updated reliability, as claimed in claim 10.

Claim 26 is allowed over the prior art made of record because it is dependent from the allowed independent claim 10.

The prior art of record, Wactlar et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,667), Vaithilingam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,724), and Aggarwal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,293), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a first routine to determine weight among multimedia features and weight among elements of the multimedia features; and

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a second routine to determine weight-learning rate of the weights among the multimedia features that is higher than a weight-learning rate of the weights among elements of a multimedia feature, as claimed in claim 13.

Claims 14-15 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependent from the allowed independent claim 13.


*Conclusion*

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (571) 272-4083.

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February 28, 2005

  
CHARLES RONES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER